

Notes: May 14 2016

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Road To Shavuot

We are in the midst of the counting of the Omer as we recognize our third Shabbat since we started...

Lev 23:15 " From the day after the day of rest — that is, from the day you bring the sheaf for waving — you are to count seven full weeks,

Lev 23:16 until the day after the seventh week; you are to count fifty days; and then you are to present a new grain offering to Adonai.

So, just what is this Road to Shavuot?

What is its purpose, why count 50 days from First Fruits during Passover and arrive at Shavuot.

We can better understand this through Passover and the Exodus.

A people in slavery for many years are set free in one night. It is in essence the first occurrence of what Isaiah had prophesied many years later, and something that I had touched on last week...

Isa 66:8 Who ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Tziyon went into labor, she brought forth her children.

In essence this was Adonai's declaration to a people that are His nation, His representatives. We first see this occur in Exodus 12 when Adonai liberates Israel from bondage, a country born in a day. A nation in exile is set free.

Exo 12:30 Pharaoh got up in the night, he, all his servants and all the Egyptians; and there was horrendous wailing in Egypt; for there wasn't a single house without someone dead in it.

Exo 12:31 He summoned Moshe and Aharon by night and said, "Up and leave my people, both you and the people of Isra'el; and go, serve Adonai as you said.

Exo 12:32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you said; and get out of here! But bless me, too."

Exo 12:33 The Egyptians pressed to send the people out of the land quickly, because they said, "Otherwise we'll all be dead!"

Even as Israel in 1948 had to fight for their freedom, so to the Exodus would include the first of many battles prior to their entering the land that had been promised to Avraham. This first battle, upon their exodus from Egypt would be ultimately fought by Adonai...

Exo 14:1 Adonai said to Moshe,

Exo 14:2 "Tell the people of Isra'el to turn around and set up camp in front of Pi-Hachiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Ba`al-Tz'fon; camp opposite it, by the sea.

Exo 14:3 Then Pharaoh will say that the people of Isra'el are wandering aimlessly in the countryside, the desert has closed in on them.

Exo 14:4 I will make Pharaoh so hardhearted that he will pursue them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will realize at last that I am Adonai." The people did as ordered.

Exo 14:5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people. They said, "What have we done, letting Isra'el stop being our slaves?"

Exo 14:8 Adonai made Pharaoh hardhearted, and he pursued the people of Isra'el, as they left boldly.

Exo 14:9 The Egyptians went after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, with his cavalry and army, and overtook them as they were encamped by the sea, by Pi-Hachiroth, in front of Ba`al-Tz'fon.

Exo 14:10 **As Pharaoh approached, the people of Isra'el looked up and saw the Egyptians right there, coming after them. In great fear the people of Isra'el cried out to Adonai**

So when Adonai says back in verse 4 that the Egyptians will realize at last that I am Adonai...could this also apply to the children of Israel as well?

Consider their response in verses 11 and 12 when they learn that Pharaoh is approaching them.

Exo 14:11 and said to Moshe, "Was it because there weren't enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the desert? Why have you done this to us, bringing us out of Egypt?"

Exo 14:12 Didn't we tell you in Egypt to let us alone, we'll just go on being slaves for the Egyptians? It would be better for us to be the Egyptians' slaves than to die in the desert!"

To where Moshe responds to the people...

Exo 14:13 Moshe answered the people, "Stop being so fearful! Remain steady, and you will see how Adonai is going to save you. He will do it today — today you have seen the Egyptians, but you will never see them again!

Exo 14:14 Adonai will do battle for you. Just calm yourselves down!"

And what happens?

Exo 14:15 Adonai asked Moshe, "Why are you crying to me? Tell the people of Isra'el to go forward!

Exo 14:16 Lift your staff, reach out with your hand over the sea, and divide it in two. The people of Isra'el will advance into the sea on dry ground.

Exo 14:17 As for me, I will make the Egyptians hardhearted; and they will march in after them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, chariots and cavalry.

Exo 14:18 Then the Egyptians will realize that I am Adonai, when I have won myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots and his cavalry."

Exo 14:19 Next, the angel of God, who was going ahead of the camp of Isra'el, moved away and went behind them; and the column of cloud moved away from in front of them and stood behind them.

Exo 14:20 It stationed itself between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Isra'el — there was cloud and darkness here, but light by night there; so that the one did not come near the other all night long.

Exo 14:21 Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and Adonai caused the sea to go back before a strong east wind all night. He made the sea become dry land, and its water was divided in two.

Exo 14:22 Then the people of Isra'el went into the sea on the dry ground, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left.

Exo 14:23 The Egyptians continued their pursuit, going after them into the sea — all Pharaoh's horses, chariots and cavalry.

Exo 14:24 Just before dawn, Adonai looked out on the Egyptian army through the column of fire and cloud and threw them into a panic.

Exo 14:25 He caused the wheels of their chariots to break off, so that they could move only with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Adonai is fighting for Isra'el against the Egyptians! Let's get away from them!"

Exo 14:26 Adonai said to Moshe, "Reach your hand out over the sea, and the water will return and cover the Egyptians with their chariots and cavalry."

Exo 14:27 Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and by dawn the sea had returned to its former depth. The Egyptians tried to flee, but Adonai swept them into the sea.

Exo 14:28 The water came back and covered all the chariots and cavalry of Pharaoh's army who had followed them into the sea — not even one of them was left.

Exo 14:29 But the people of Isra'el walked on dry ground in the sea, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left.

What was this, but a teachable moment for Israel. What better way to learn than through actual experience.

Exo 14:30 On that day, Adonai saved Isra'el from the Egyptians; Isra'el saw the Egyptians dead on the shore.

Exo 14:31 When Isra'el saw the mighty deed that Adonai had performed against the Egyptians, the people feared Adonai, and they believed in Adonai and in his servant Moshe.

As much as this was to convey who Adonai was to the Egyptians, it was also a moment where not only believed in Adonai but also Moshe His servant.

This experience was during the first week after the Passover, or the first week of the Omer.

What did this moment do for Israel?

This moment was one more experience that would comprise many experiences Adonai would use to prepare the people of Israel.

What were they being prepared for?

A nation in exile, set free, for the initial purpose...

Exo 9:1 Then Adonai said to Moshe, "Go to Pharaoh, and tell him, 'Here is what Adonai, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they can worship me.

Yet, there would be so much more involved in Adonai's plan for Israel as a people and as a nation.

To where we are now in the third month since the Exodus...

Much has happened that has added to their experience and preparation as a people to worship Adonai...

The people grumbled many times, involving food, drink and purpose.

What will we eat?

We are thirsty, what will we drink?

You brought us into the desert to die!

Yet in all of these challenges, Moshe interceded on behalf of the people to Adonai and Adonai responded.

These two were times of preparation, whereby Adonai is further revealing Himself to the people. Preparing their hearts through providing for their needs.

Exo 19:1 In the third month after the people of Isra'el had left the land of Egypt, the same day they came to the Sinai Desert.

Exo 19:2 After setting out from Refidim and arriving at the Sinai Desert, they set up camp in the desert; there in front of the mountain, Isra'el set up camp.

Israel has arrived at its first primary destination, keeping in mind not its final destination, but an extremely important stop for the people.

Exo 19:3 Moshe went up to God, and Adonai called to him from the mountain: "Here is what you are to say to the household of Ya`akov, to tell the people of Isra'el:

As I had stated before, it wasn't only the Egyptians who would realize who Adonai is, but also the children of Israel. Notice what He conveys...

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

"notice how I have defeated the Egyptians and how I cared for and protected you as an eagle does for its young."

Exo 19:5 Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine;

Exo 19:6 and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

Backtrack 40+ days and you have a people that were expecting to die in the desert. No food, no water, vulnerable to attack. This was the reality the people saw, yet we get to this point, Adonai has provided and protected to the point where these promises will be conveyed.

Throughout these 40+ days, the people were being prepared for what was to be revealed. Adonai was showing them who He is in order for what is conveyed in verses 5 and 6 to be extremely impactful. He was building their trust in

Him.

Exo 19:7 Moshe came, summoned the leaders of the people and presented them with all these words which Adonai had ordered him to say.

Exo 19:8 All the people answered as one, "Everything Adonai has said, we will do." Moshe reported the words of the people to Adonai.

This is the Road to Shavuot.

There was also a similar occurrence on the Road to Shavuot that I want to share with you...

As the discovery of the empty tomb sent shock waves through the ranks of the talmadim, Luke conveys this experience...

Luk 24:13 That same day, two of them were going toward a village about seven miles from Yerushalayim called Amma'us,

Luk 24:14 and they were talking with each other about all the things that had happened.

Luk 24:15 As they talked and discussed, Yeshua himself came up and walked along with them,

Luk 24:16 but something kept them from recognizing him.

Luk 24:17 He asked them, "What are you talking about with each other as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast;

Luk 24:18 and one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only person staying in Yerushalayim that doesn't know the things that have been going on there the last few days?"

Luk 24:19 "What things?" he asked them. They said to him, "The things about Yeshua from Natzeret. He was a prophet and proved it by the things he did and said before God and all the people.

Luk 24:20 Our head cohanim and our leaders handed him over, so that he could be sentenced to death and executed on a stake as a criminal.

Luk 24:21 And we had hoped that he would be the one to liberate Isra'el! Besides all that, today is the third day since these things happened;

Luk 24:22 and this morning, some of the women astounded us. They were at the tomb early

Luk 24:23 and couldn't find his body, so they came back; but they also reported that they had seen a vision of angels who say he's alive!

Luk 24:24 Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they didn't see him."

Luk 24:25 **He said to them, "Foolish people! So unwilling to put your trust in everything the prophets spoke!"**

We are on the road to Shavuot with these two and Yeshua.

The same issue that we witnessed on our first journey is the exact same issue being dealt with here...trust (faith)

Yeshua then goes on to open their minds and reveal what is conveyed in Scripture...

Luk 24:26 Didn't the Messiah have to die like this before entering his glory?"

Luk 24:27 Then, starting with Moshe and all the prophets, he explained to them the things that can be found throughout the Tanakh concerning himself.

Luk 24:28 They approached the village where they were going. He made as if he were going on farther;

Luk 24:29 but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us, for it's almost evening, and it's getting dark." So he went in to stay with them.

Luk 24:30 As he was reclining with them at the table, he took the matzah, made the b'rakhah, broke it and handed it to them.

Luk 24:31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But he became invisible to them.

Luk 24:32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn inside us as he spoke to us on the road, opening up the Tanakh to us?"

Luk 24:33 They got up at once, returned to Yerushalayim and found the Eleven gathered together with their friends,

Luk 24:34 saying, "It's true! The Lord has risen! Shim'on saw him!"

Luk 24:35 Then the two told what had happened on the road and how he had become known to them in the breaking of the matzah.

What Yeshua would do for these two individuals, He would do for all of His talmadim...

Luk 24:44 Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

Doing so for 40 days...

Act 1:3 After his death he showed himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. During a period of forty days they saw him, and he spoke with them about the Kingdom of God.

And leading to Shavuot, whereby the experience of Exodus 19 is ultimately experienced again...

Act 2:1 The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place.

Act 2:2 Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them.

Act 2:4 They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Act 2:5 Now there were staying in Yerushalayim religious Jews from every nation under heaven.

Act 2:6 When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered; they were confused, because each one heard the believers speaking in his own language.

Act 2:7 Totally amazed, they asked, "How is this possible? Aren't all these people who are speaking from the Galil?"

Act 2:8 How is it that we hear them speaking in our native languages?

Act 2:9 We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Y'hudah, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia,

Act 2:10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome;

Act 2:11 Jews by birth and proselytes; Jews from Crete and from Arabia. . . ! How is it that we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things God has done?"

Act 2:12 Amazed and confused, they all went on asking each other, "What can this mean?"

Act 2:13 But others made fun of them and said, "They've just had too much wine!"

Act 2:14 Then Kefa stood up with the Eleven and raised his voice to address them: "You Judeans, and all of you staying here in Yerushalayim! Let me tell you what this means! Listen carefully to me!

Act 2:15 "These people aren't drunk, as you suppose — it's only nine in the morning.

Act 2:16 No, this is what was spoken about through the prophet Yo'el:

Act 2:17 'Adonai says: "In the Last Days, I will pour out from my Spirit upon everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Kefa would then go on to convey one of the most powerful sermons in Scripture.

This time when we count the omer is a time where we are to prepare our hearts and minds for receiving Adonai and all that is within Him. This includes receiving Yeshua as Messiah, because it is during this time that He conveys through the Tanakh all that had to transpire. This Road to Shavuot, would further establish a commitment by the people and Talmadim to the God they serve.

Likewise we should be reminded of our own dedication to the God we serve.

Today's assigned reading on our Counting of the Omer is Psalm 119:161-168, Our dedication to the Laws of Adonai...

Psa 119:161 *שׁ* (*Shin*) Princes persecute me for no reason, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

Psa 119:162 I take joy in your promise, like someone who finds much booty.

Psa 119:163 I hate falsehood, I detest it; but I love your Torah.

Psa 119:164 I praise you seven times a day because of your righteous rulings.

Psa 119:165 Those who love your Torah have great peace; nothing makes them stumble.

Psa 119:166 I hope for your deliverance, Adonai; I obey your mitzvot.

Psa 119:167 My soul observes your instruction, and I love it so much!

Psa 119:168 I observe your precepts and instruction, for all my ways lie open before you.